IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs of the specification as follows:

On page 6, please replace paragraph [1015] with the following:

In another aspect of the invention, the quality metric is modified by a pre-determined quality metric margin. Alternatively, modifying said quality metric by a quality metric margin is achieved by declaring an outage event when power required for transmission of a second reference signal exceeds power required for transmission of the second reference signal determined [[form]] <u>from</u> previously modified quality metric; detecting occurrence of the outage event during a pre-determined interval; and modifying said quality metric in accordance with said detecting.

On page 6, please replace paragraph [1016] with the following:

In another aspect of the invention, the outage is detected by determining at a source of data a quality metric of a link over which data is to be transmitted; modifying said quality metric by a quality metric margin; and declaring an outage event when power required for transmission of a reference signal exceeds power required for transmission of the reference signal determined [[form]] <u>from</u> the modified quality metric. Alternatively, the outage is detected by determining at a source of data a quality metric of a link over which data is to be transmitted; modifying said quality metric by a quality metric margin; determining a maximum rate of data in accordance with said modified quality metric; and declaring an outage event when power required for transmission of data at the maximum rate of data exceeds maximum allowable transmission power.

On page 12, please replace paragraph following the sub-heading "Forward Link Structure" with the following:

FIG. 2 illustrates an exemplary forward link waveform **200**. For pedagogical reasons, the waveform **200** is modeled after a forward link waveform of the above-mentioned HDR system. However, one of ordinary skill in the art will understand that the teaching is applicable to different waveforms. Thus, for example, in one embodiment the waveform does not need to contain pilot signal bursts, and the pilot signal can be transmitted on a separate channel, which can be continuous or bursty. The forward link **200** is defined in terms of frames. A frame is a structure comprising 16 time-slots **202**, each time-slot **202** being 2048 chips long, corresponding to a 1.66[[.]] ms. time-slot duration, and, consequently, a 26.66[[.]] ms. frame duration. Each

time-slot **202** is divided into two half-time-slots ~~**202a, 202b**~~ **202A, 202B**, with pilot bursts ~~**204a, 204b**~~ **204A, 204B** transmitted within each half-time-slot ~~**202a, 202b**~~ **204A, 204B**. In the exemplary embodiment, each pilot burst ~~**204a, 204b**~~ **204A, 204B** is 96 chips long, and is centered at the mid-point of its associated half-time-slot ~~**202a, 202b**~~ **204A, 204B**. The pilot bursts ~~**204a, 204b**~~ **204A, 204B** comprise a pilot channel signal covered by a Walsh cover with index 0. A forward medium access control channel (MAC) **206** forms two bursts, which are transmitted immediately before and immediately after the pilot burst **204** of each half-time-slot **202**. In the exemplary embodiment, the MAC is composed of up to 64 code channels, which are orthogonally covered by 64-ary Walsh codes. Each code channel is identified by a MAC index, which has a value between 1 and 64, and identifies a unique 64-ary Walsh cover. A reverse power control channel (RPC) is used to regulate the power of the reverse link signals for each subscriber station. The RPC commands are generated by comparing measured reverse link transmission power at the base station with a power control set point. If the measured reverse link transmission power is below the set point, then an RPC up command is provided to the subscriber station to increase the reverse link transmission power. If the measured reverse link transmission power is above the set point, then an RPC down command is provided to the subscriber station to decrease the reverse link transmission power. The RPC is assigned to one of the available MACs with MAC index between 5 and 63. The MAC with MAC index 4 is used for a reverse activity channel (RA), which performs flow control on the reverse traffic channel. The forward link traffic channel and control channel payload is sent in the remaining portions **[[208a]]** **208A** of the first half-time-slot **[[202a]]** **202A** and the remaining portions **[[208b]]** **208B** of the second half-time-slot **[[202b]]** **202B**.

On page 15, please replace paragraph [1050] with the following:

Because a transmitter implementation has maximum allowable power (TxMaxPwr), the TxTotalPwr may be optionally limited in block **312**. In one embodiment, the transmit power limiting is performed in accordance with a method illustrated in **FIG. 5**. The method starts in step **502** and continues in step **504**. In step **504**, the TxTotalPwr is compared to the TxMaxPwr. If the TxTotalPwr is less or equal to TxMaxPwr, the method continues in step **[[506]]** **508**, where the TxPwrLimited is set equal to TxMaxPwr; otherwise, the method continues in step **[[508]]** **506**, where the TxPwrLimited is set equal to TxTotalPwr. The method ends in step **510**.

On page 20, please replace paragraph [1061] with the following:

The n^{th} slot <u>of</u> the **902(m^{th})** frame is defined to be in outage of Type A if the power required for the rlRatePredicted at the n^{th} slot is greater than the power determined for the rlRatePredicted at time t_0, i.e., if Equation (5) is satisfied:

TxOpenLoop[16m+n]+TxClosedLoop[16m+n]+PilotToTotalRatio(rlRatePredicted[16m-k])>TxMaxPwr (5)

If the nth slot of the **902(m^{th})** frame is not in outage of Type A, then from Equations (4) and (5) follows:

TxPilotPred[16m+n] + PilotToTotaRatiol(rlRatePredicted[16m-k]) ≤ xPwrMargin (6)

On page 22, please replace paragraph [1066] with the following:

In another embodiment, if a frame has j slot outages, 0 <= j <= 16, TxPwrMargin is incremented by TxPowerMarginStep[j], where ~~TxPowerMarginStep[]~~ <u>TxPowerMarginStep[j]</u> is an array of length 16. Note that several elements of the array ~~TxPowerMarginStep[]~~ <u>TxPowerMarginStep[j]</u> can be zeros to allow for the above-mentioned consideration that few, isolated slot outages in a frame do not result in packet decoding errors. The value of TxPwrMargin is further limited between TxPwrMarginMin and TxPwrMarginMax.